

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 128

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor and applaud coaches Ronald Ward and John Griggs and the Union City Middle School boys' basketball team on capturing the TSMAA West Sectional Small School Championship.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful sports teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, led by coaches Ronald Ward and John Griggs, the Union City Middle School (UCMS) boys' basketball team achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2010-2011 season, establishing a record of twenty-one wins and no losses and winning the TSMAA West Sectional Small School Championship; and

WHEREAS, the UCMS Twisters rolled into the championship game with an undefeated record and completed their amazing season by soundly defeating the Fayette-East Bulldogs and capturing Union City's first-ever sectional championship at the middle school level; and

WHEREAS, the young men of the UCMS boys' basketball team have displayed ability, teamwork, and perseverance. Players Donte Simpson, Marcus Deberry, Malik Stockdale, James Mays, Jalen Ware, Ricky Henry, Thomas Beard, Jamie Pirtle, Zac Williamson, Joe Wiggins, D'Carrious Stephens, Taj Reid, Kaleb Dowell, Wil'laevion Burton, Austin Meadows, and Quentrail Polk, with the help of their coaches, parents, teachers, school administrators, supporters, and many fans, represented their school and the State of Tennessee in fine fashion, displaying peerless character both on and off the basketball court; and

WHEREAS, the team's remarkable season would not have been possible without the help and support of the their managers, Will Sisco, Tripp Conley, and Cooper Hurt, and the Union City Middle administration and support staff, especially Principal Dan Boykin; and

WHEREAS, the leadership and passion for the game of coaches Ronald Ward and John Griggs are without peer; their precepts of playing tenacious defense, controlling the ball on offense, and limiting mistakes were perfectly on display during the Twisters' run for the championship; and

WHEREAS, during this incredible championship season, the members of the Union City Middle School boys' basketball team have etched their names onto the hearts of Tennesseans; their dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent not only made possible a successful and memorable basketball season, but also surely point toward their successes in future endeavors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate coaches Ronald Ward and John Griggs and the Union City Middle School boys' basketball team for their heralded success on the basketball court and for capturing the TSMAA West Sectional Small School Championship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.